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1 the United States to New Mexico some of those lands had been
2 and were being used or occupied by Native Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, allegations have been asserted that certain lands
4 that have been used or occupied for decades by Native Americans
5 are lands owned by New Mexico and that Native Americans using
6 or occupying those lands are doing so without authorization;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, many Native Americans and their families will be
9 adversely affected if there is an effort to dispossess them
10 from lands allegedly owned by New Mexico;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the importance of the
13 question of Native Americans using and occupying lands
14 allegedly owned by New Mexico and the hardship that would be
15 imposed as a result of any effort to dispossess Native
16 Americans from lands they have used and possessed for decades;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state land office and the
19 Indian affairs department be requested to work together to
20 study the question of whether Native Americans may be using or
21 occupying lands transferred by the United States to the state
22 of New Mexico, including the extent of any such use or
23 occupation, and provide recommendations for resolving potential
24 claims of unauthorized use of state lands; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than November 2005

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1 the state land office and the Indian affairs department report
2 to the appropriate interim legislative committees on their
3 findings and recommendations, including any recommendations
4 that require legislative approval or funding to implement; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the president of the Navajo Nation, the speaker
7 of the Navajo Nation council, the president of the Mescalero
8 Apache Tribe, the president of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the
9 commissioner of public lands and the secretary of Indian
10 affairs.